

Membership renewal information:

Members whose membership has expired or is near expiration will find their membership date highlighted on the mailing label.



<http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc>

ARRL Membership - Members are urged to renew their ARRL membership through BVARC, allowing the club to take advantage of reduced insurance rates. Contact John at 281-530-0432 for information

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B-VARC General Meetings
are now on the second Thursday
of each month!!!

Delicious hot dogs are served.

Board of Directors Meetings
are on the first Thursday
of each month.

Many thanks to John Moore for printing this month's issue and to Claude Sessions for production.

Board of Directors:

Kevin Foto, President - KD5O, alpine@wt.net
Claude Sessions, vice-president - K5HFY, claudes@juno.com
Bill Allen, Recording Secretary - KD5IU, william_allen@csicontrols.com
John Whiteman, Corresponding Secretary - K5LKJ, jw@heatingtapes.com
Rex Ritz, Treasurer - KC5EEU, icrex@yahoo.com
Robert Moore, 1-Year-Director - KK5UO, kk5uo@hal-pc.org
Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, 2-Year-Director, n5vcx@worldnet.att.net
Paul Gray, 3-Year-Director - N0JAA, n0jaa@aol.com
Larry Jacobson, Past President - K5LJ, k5lj@nstci.com

Prez Sez:

Thanks again to Jim Paul for his June presentation on PIC Controllers. Next months presentation will feature a talk by the folks from the Fort Bend R/C Club. I am told they will bring lots of planes for show and demonstration.

Final Field Day preparations are in full swing. There was a big turn out at the Tuesday planning meeting. At this time it appears that mosquitos will be a bigger problem than any technical obstacles we encounter.

Lately, there has been an increase in 6 meter activity. There have been many band openings this spring. Recently, Claude Sessions got a small local group together for a rag chew on 6 meter sideband. With all this interest in 6 meters, I propose that we start a 6 meter simplex net. I would appreciate any input on the subject.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting!

73,

Kevin/KD5O

Members who have club equipment are urged to contact a board member so that Club equipment can be cataloged and stored. Also, we would like to have some shelving if anyone wishes to donate it to the club. Thanks.

SCHEDULE OF BVARC Activities

VE Sessions Change of Location:

The ARRL VEC amateur license tests which are given by B-VARC on the second Tuesday of each month has been moved to:

**Houston Community College,
Scarcella Technology Center,
10141 Cash Road, Stafford, TX**

Parking in the rear --

Month	General Meeting	Program	BOD Meeting	VEC Test
July	12	Demo from Radio Controlled Aircraft Group	TBA	10
August	9	TBA	2	14

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The MERA Report
by Mike Hardwick, N5VCX

On June 16th the Memorial Emergency Radio Association (MERA) had a general board meeting to discuss the current problems with the 145.470 repeater. The main topic was the failure of the final power amplifier stage (PA) several weeks earlier. The repeater was temporarily brought back up on the air using only the exciter stage with about 400 mw output. This was done due to the unavailability, at that time, of a spare PA unit. The repeater has since been restored to a normal operating level using an external PA.

The board discussed many options, from repairing the old repeater to purchasing a new one. After a brief discussion and a unanimous vote, it was decided that a new repeater will be purchased to replace the current one. The old repeater would then be repaired and keep on hand as a spare. The purchase of the new repeater would not only add new radio equipment to the MERA system, it would also add a new power supply as well as a basic repeater controller. The new repeater will not be ordered for a few weeks due to some changes in the manufactures production schedule but it is hopeful that it will be on the air by summer's end. When the new repeater is installed, all the information on it will be published in an upcoming MERA Report.

Currently the 145.470 repeater is operating normally with the transmitter at 25 watts output and the receiver with about .1 microvolt sensitivity (this is a very hot level due to the out-board pre-amp. Normally the receiver's sensitivity is about .35 microvolts). The UHF repeater, the 444.550, is off the air due to space requirements of the temporary amplifier. The UHF repeater may be back on the air in a few weeks when the equipment is rearranged.

Speaking of rearranging, when the new repeater is installed, a call may go out for "a few good hams" to help in transferring equipment and moving the station to a new location. Stay tuned to the Monday night B-VARC net for

details. An announcement will be made on when we will need the four to six people to help with "modernizing" the site.

Just recently the repeater has been experiencing some type of on-channel interference. It appears to be a very low level, wide bandwidth signal that is intermittent. The problem is being looked into and hopefully it will be corrected very soon. Who knows, it may be a cousin to the "Russian Woodpecker" on HF!

MERA would like to thank everyone that participated in the recent fund drive. The donations that were made to MERA will make the purchase of the new repeater possible giving both the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio club and southwest Houston a very reliable and dependable communications system for all to use.

2001 MERA Board of Directors

HOUSTON
AMATEUR RADIO
SUPPLY, INC.

GEORGE DiLETTA, K0BRW
PRESIDENT

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SCANNER JACK'S Corner by Jack Roberts, KB5TMY

HERE ARE THE FREQUENCIES AND I.D.'S THAT I MONITORED DURING TROPICAL STORM ALLISON.
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17648 AIR BOATS
17552 RESCUE DOT
11344 PCT. 3 AIR BOATS

10544 BUSSES
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12688 TAC 2 RESCUE
14832 SOUTH A TAC RESCUE
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B-VARC AMATEUR EXAMINATION SESSION BY: JOHN MOORE, KK5NU

There was no VEC session in June because of repairs at HCC.

MONDAY NIGHT PSN check-ins (KC5VYZ net control)

5/7 - 17 - Darrel
5/14 - 27 - Darrel
5/21 - 37 - Jack
5/28 - 11 - Doug
6/4 - - Darrel
6/11 - 15 - Mahana
6/18 - 15 - Bruce

B-VARC RAG CHEW Net Check-Ins for May 2001 by Sam Wilson, N5CPA

3.960MHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00PM ←PLEASE
NOTE TIME CHANGE FROM 8:00 TO 7:00



Alex-WASUHT

7015 Atwell Dr
Houston TX 77061-9885
PHONE: 713/963-8885
FAX: 713/963-8413

EMAIL: aje@cityelectronics.com
WEB SITE: <http://www.cityelectronics.com>

Store Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00-5:00

Just WHAT IS the Rag Chew Net? Well it's a chance for you to get on the low bands and hang out with other B-VARC members, as well as hams from around the south central US! WHAT?? Don't have voice privileges? Got a short-wave receiver? Dial in and listen, then check in using the telephone number announced at the beginning of each net.

5/2/01—N5CPA, K5CEK, N5XWB, K5LJ, K5JWM, KB5ION, N5VXU, KK5W, KA0TEN, K5HFX, KC5SQD, KB5F, KE5SR. (13)

5/9/01—N5CPA, K5CEK, KE5SR, K5HFX, N5XWB, NM5K, N5VXU, KB5F, KB5OTD. (9)

5/16/01—N5CPA, K5CEK, KE5SR, KE5MY, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KB5F, WC5S, K5LJ, N5VXU. (10)

5/23/01—N5CPA, K5CEK, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KE5SR, WC5S, KB5ION, KB5F, K5JWM. (9)

5/30/01—N5CPA, N5VXU, K5CEK, KD5FWD, NM5K, KE5SR, K5LJ, WB5JVQ, K5JWM, K5VRJ, AB5BA, KB5F, K5LBU. (13)

Club Links

Some web page links to clubs in the Southeast Texas area -- Cameron Mitchell
(Not all active)

Brenham ARC:

<http://www.alpha1.net/~bare>

Texas DX Society:

<http://n5uh.tech.uh.edu/~tdxs>

Houston Echo Society:

<http://www.qsl.net/echo>

Northwest ARC (Houston):

<http://www.w5nc.org>

John Space Center ARC

<http://www.w5rrt.org>

COMPAC Radio Club:

<http://www.houston-intranet.com/~cpqham>

Katy ARS:

<http://members.aol.com/karsradio>

Stephen F. Austin ARC (Bellville area):

http://users.argolink.net/danwhite/W5SFA/W5SFA_index

Hou-Texins ARC (Stafford):

<http://www.hal-pc.org/~tiarc/>

Brazos Valley ARC:

<http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc>

Tidelands ARC (Texas City Area):

<http://www.tidelands.org>

South East Texas ARC (Tomball):

<http://setac.homestead.com/setachome.html>

Victoria ARC:

<http://www.viptx.net/varc/>

Clear Lake ARC:

<http://www.clarc.org>

(Please advise of additions. Thanks.)

BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Board of Directors Meeting – June 7, 2001

President Kevin Foto called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with a quorum.

Those in attendance were:

President Kevin Foto-KD5O, Vice President Claude Sessions-K5HFX, Corresponding Secretary John Whiteman-K5LKJ, Treasurer Rex Ritz - KC5EEU, Recording Secretary Bill Allen-KD5IU, 3-Year Director Paul Gray-N0JAA, Cameron Mitchell - K5CAM, 2-year board member Mike Hardwick -N5VCX, Past President Larry Jacobson-K5LJ, Recording Secretary Bill Allen-KD5IU and "Big Jim"-KA4ZSM

Recording Secretary Report by Bill Allen-KD5IU:
Reviewed the May 2001 BOD minutes. Motion made by Claude Sessions and seconded by Paul Gray to approve April 2001 BOD minutes and motion carried unanimously.

Corresponding Secretary Report by John Whiteman-K5LKJ: John was not able to attend the meeting due to a loss in the family. As of May 3rd the club had 111 members with 66 in the ARRL, 15 life members and 12 family members.

Treasurer Report by Rex Ritz - KC5EEU: Rex reported the field day pins are in. There was one new membership through the club for the ARRL. There was also one new life member. The clubs insurance was discussed. All accounts are current. Larry Jacobson made a motion to pass the report and was seconded by Claude Sessions and motion then passed unanimously.

Vice President Report by Claude Sessions-K5HFX:
Claude stated that the orders that were given for caps, jackets and shirts have been processed and

he will have all of the items at the next general club meeting to be picked up by the people who ordered them. New caps have been made and will be for sale when received. We will sell the caps for ten dollars and the patches for five dollars. The club will continue to sell these throughout the year. The check for Katy County Park was returned, as the club did not use the facility this year. He also stated he will have the clubs financial records reviewed by an outside auditor for records and tax purposes. Bill Allen made a motion to pass the report and was seconded by Kevin Foto and motion then passed unanimously.

Presidential Report by Kevin Foto-KD5O: There were many discussions on field day details. He restated that next month's club program would be on P.I.C. controllers. The future club programs were discussed. It was decided that a planning meeting for next year's field day preparations would be scheduled for later date. Bill Allen made a motion to pass the report and was seconded by Mike Hardwick and motion passed unanimously.

Public Service Update by Mike Hardwick-N5VCX: Mike gave a repeater status and discussed recent repairs and current plans for future repairs of the MERA repeater. He also gave a report on the success of this year's first command post operation, APRS tracking and an overall successful report of the entire event with a few issues. Kevin Foto made a motion to pass the report and was seconded by Bill Allen and motion passed unanimously.

At Large Report by Paul Gray-N0JAA: Field day logistics and final details were discussed. It was decided that field day announcements would be made at the next general meeting. A motion was made by Rex Ritz and seconded by Mike Hardwick and motion then passed unanimously.

Motion was made to adjourn by Larry Jacobson and seconded by Bill Allen. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary Bill Allen-KD5IIU.

Here are some Field Day Pics. There is a collection of them on the B-VARC web site at:
<http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc/FieldDay01.htm>





**The Monthly Publication of the
Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.
Serving the Greater Houston Area.
Club Callsign - KC5OIG**

B-VARC's Website: <http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc>

Editor: Cameron Mitchell, K5CAM, k5cam@arri.net

Production: Claude Sessions, K5HFY, claudes@juno.com

John Moore, KK5NU, jwm@hal-pc.org

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (B-VARC) was originally organized in 1978, primarily as an emergency communications group available to assist the communities of Missouri City and Stafford, when required. Since that time, B-VARC has grown and expanded its activities to become the most active HAM radio club in the Southwest Houston area.

Today, B-VARC is truly a general-interest club with an impressive record of Public Service. The Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) has recognized the Commitment to service with the coveted status of Special Service Club. We are proud of our members who represent the finest in Amateur Radio. Membership is not limited to licensed operators, but is open to anyone with an interest in Amateur Radio. Meetings are held generally at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, at the Sugar Land Community Center. Talk-in assistance is available in the 145.470, and 444.550 MHz repeaters. Membership dues are \$16 annually.

B-VARC conducts A.R.R.L. VEC license exam sessions on the second Tuesday of each month. B-VARC also conducts a Public Service Net at 9:00 P. M. each Monday on the 145.470 and 444.55 (MERA) repeaters.

To obtain information about the club, its activities, or about joining B-VARC, contact John, K5LKJ, at 281-530-0432.

B-VARC Meeting Schedule

The next general membership meeting is Thursday, July 12.

Location:

7:30 p.m. Sugar Land Community Center, 226 Matlage Way, Sugar Land Texas

B-VARC Eating Schedule

Saturdays-7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Location: New York Coffee Shop, 9720 Hillcroft.

Also at 7:30 a. m. Location: Viking Den on 90A, Stafford.

3rd Friday dinners - The 3rd Friday Dinner in July will be July 20, 6:30 sharp, at Vinnie's Italian Cafe, 5413 Bellaire at Chimney Rock in Bellaire.

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June 2001

**BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
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